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the highest character of its kind. In phænogamous botany, it related chiefly to the Scandinavian flora, in which for critical judgment he had no superior; in Mycology, of which he was the reformator, and to a good degree in Lichenology, he had no rival except as regards microscopical research. The modern microscope did not exist when he began his work, and, while showing how much can be done without it, he may too long have underrated its value. But he lived to see it confirm many conclusions which his insight foresaw, and solve riddles which he had pondered, but was unable to divine. He was the prince, Nestor, and last survivor of an excellent school of systematic botanists, whose teachers were taught by Linnæus or his contemporaries.

URBAIN-JEAN-JOSEPH LEVERRIER.

URBAIN-JEAN-JOSEPH LEVERRIER was born at St. Lô, in the department of the Manche, on March 11th, 1811. As a boy, he studied at the colleges of St. Lô at Caen, and in Paris at the College of Louis le Grand. In 1831, he entered the École Polytechnique, where he graduated with such distinction that he was allowed to choose which branch of the public service he would enter. Obtaining a position in the tobacco bureau, he devoted his leisure to chemistry, and published, as his first contribution to science, two papers on the combinations of phosphorus with hydrogen and oxygen. His natural tastes, however, were in the direction of the mathematics, and soon after, receiving a minor appointment in the École Polytechnique, he was enabled to devote his entire energies to his favorite science. At the instigation of Arago, he undertook the examination of the mutual disturbances of the planets, a subject to which he devoted a large portion of his life. A complete discussion of the motion of a single planet is a work of which any astronomer might be proud, but the determination of the motions, and the formation of tables for computing the positions of all the planets is a work of such magnitude that it would seem beyond the powers of a single individual. Yet LeVerrier not only boldly undertook this problem, but carried it to a successful termination, and built himself a lasting monument in the superb volumes of the "Paris Observatory," in which these researches are published.

The discovery of Neptune, by which LeVerrier is best known to the public, enters as a small portion of this great work. A study of the discordance in the motion of the planet Uranus from its path, as given by theory, led him to suspect the existence of an outer planet, producing the disturbance by its attraction. An investigation of the mass

and position of such a body enabled him to present to the Academy, on June 1, 1846, a paper predicting the position of the unknown planet. Three months later, Galle examined this portion of the heavens at the request of LeVerrier, and discovered a star within two degrees of the computed place, which was not on the maps, and which proved to be the new planet. This discovery was at once received with the greatest enthusiasm. Honors poured in on LeVerrier from every side, and it was even proposed to name the planet from him. Fortunately, however, as in the case of Uranus, cooler judgment prevailed, and the precedent of naming the planets from the Roman deities was not broken. It afterwards appeared that the English mathematician, Adams, was engaged on this same problem, though by a less rigorous method, and an equal share of the glory of the discovery was claimed by his friends for him. It has also been shown that by making different assumptions LeVerrier might have arrived at widely different results. The fact, nevertheless, remains, that LeVerrier was the first to predict on theoretical grounds the true position of the unknown planet, and that in consequence of this prediction Neptune was discovered.

On the death of Arago in 1854, LeVerrier was appointed his successor as Director of the Paris Observatory. In 1870, he was removed from this position, but reinstated in 1873, when he resumed the publications of the "Annals of the Observatory," which had been discontinued during his absence. Although a mathematician rather than an observer, he introduced many important changes in the work of the Paris Observatory, and greatly increased its efficiency. For many years, he was a senator and member of the Superior Council of Public Instruction, and was thus enabled to render material aid to the cause of higher education in France. He was the originator and President of l'Association Scientifique de France, and to him is its success largely due. During the last year of his life, he was much interested in International Meteorology, and succeeded in establishing a great number of stations in France. After an illness of about six months, he died on the morning of September 23d, 1877, on the thirty-first anniversary of the discovery of Neptune.

HENRI VICTOR REGNAULT.

HENRI VICTOR REGNAULT was born at Aix-la-Chapelle on the 21st of July, 1811, and died in Paris on the 19th of January of the present year. He obtained, while still a lad, a position in a drapery